

SECRET

OLC 71-1052

5 October 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversations with Senator John Stennis
re Laos Debate

1. The Director told me today of a phone conversation he had yesterday with Senator Stennis during which the Senator said he hadn't yet decided on his final position regarding the so-called Symington amendment, that the State Department was strongly opposed to any ceiling on, or reduction in, U.S. expenditures in Laos, but the Senator didn't want CIA "to get kicked around" anymore on this issue.

2. In a meeting today requested by Senator Stennis, the Senator told the Director that he felt the \$350 million compromise on Laos was the best solution feasible despite the fact some of his colleagues and certain people in the Administration disagreed with him. He said he hoped the Administration didn't try to "lobby to death" the Senate amendment in conference, since if they did so they might end up with something worse than what they had.

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Distribution:
Original - Subject (Stennis)
① - Laos
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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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